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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET AND SELECTED AGENCY HEADS

FROM: ALFRED H. KINGON
CABINET SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Changes in the Cabinet Council Structure

Attached are copies of two memoranda from the President, a statement and a fact sheet outlining his changes in the Cabinet Council structure.

These changes will be announced by the Press Office in Santa Barbara today at approximately at 1:30 p.m. (EST).

I am looking forward to working with each of you, and all of you, to make the new Cabinet Council system more productive and responsive in executing the President's programs and policies. Having discussed the new system with most of you, and noting the enthusiasm with which it was greeted, I am confident we will make it successful.

Attachments

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

SUBJECT: **Economic Policy Council**

To ensure better coordination in the formulation and execution of economic policy, I am creating a cabinet-level organization to be known as the Economic Policy Council.

The Council will be composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, the Director of Office of Management and Budget, the United States Trade Representative, and the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and such other members as I may from time to time designate. The Vice President and the Chief of Staff will serve as ex-officio members of the Council. Other Executive department and agency heads will be invited to attend the Council's meetings when issues involving their department or agency are under consideration.

The Council will report to me and provide advice concerning all aspects of national and international economic policy. It will oversee the formulation, coordination, and implementation of all economic policy of the United States.

In my absence, the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall serve as Chairman Pro Tempore, will preside at meetings of the Council.

The staff of the Council shall be headed by an Executive Secretary who will report to the Chief of Staff through the Cabinet Secretary.

Ronald Reagan

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

SUBJECT: Domestic Policy Council

To ensure better coordination in the formulation and execution of domestic policy, I am creating a cabinet-level organization to be known as the Domestic Policy Council.

The Council will be composed of the Attorney General, the Secretaries of the Interior, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, and Education and the Director of Office of Management and Budget, and such other members as I may from time to time designate. The Vice President and the Chief of Staff will serve as ex-officio members of the Council. Other executive department and agency heads will be invited to attend the Council's meetings when issues involving their department or agency are under consideration.

The Council will report to me and provide advice concerning all aspects of domestic and social policy. It will oversee the formulation, coordination, and implementation of all domestic policy of the United States.

In my absence, the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman Pro Tempore, will preside at meetings of the Council.

The staff of the Council shall be headed by an Executive Secretary who will report to the Chief of Staff through the Cabinet Secretary.

Ronald Reagan

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Barbara, California)

For Immediate Release April 11, 1985

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I am announcing the creation of two cabinet-level bodies -- the Economic Policy Council and the Domestic Policy Council -- to assist me in the formulation and execution of domestic and economic policy. I will chair both Councils. These two Councils will replace the seven existing Cabinet Councils and the Senior Interagency Group-International Economic Policy. The new entities will streamline policy development and decision making. Together with the National Security Council, they will serve as the primary channels for advising me on policy matters.

The Economic Policy Council will be composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, the Director of Office of Management and Budget, the United States Trade Representative and the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. It will provide advice to me concerning all aspects of national and international economic policy. The heads of the national security community departments and agencies and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs will participate in Council meetings whenever international policy or budget matters are discussed. In my absence, the Secretary of the Treasury will serve as Chairman Pro-Tempore.

The Domestic Policy Council will be composed of the Attorney General, the Secretaries of the Interior, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy and Education, and the Director of Office of Management and Budget. It will provide advice to me on domestic and social policy. In my absence the Attorney General will serve as Chairman Pro Tempore.

The heads of non-member departments and agencies will be invited to participate in either Council's deliberations whenever matters affecting their organizations are on the agenda. The Vice President and Chief of Staff will serve as ex-officio members of both Councils.

The new, streamlined decision making process enhances my commitment to cabinet government. It will provide for added accountability and efficiency in formulating and implementing policy.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Barbara, California)

For Immediate Release April 11, 1985

FACT SHEET

Economic Policy Council
Domestic Policy Council

In order to provide better policy coordination, formulation and implementation, the President today announced the creation of two new cabinet-level councils, the Economic Policy Council and the Domestic Policy Council, to advise him on economic and domestic policy issues.

The Economic Policy Council will consider those policy issues that are primarily economic in nature; the Domestic Policy Council will consider those policy issues that are not primarily economic in nature.

These new councils build on the President's commitment to cabinet government and to the inclusion of department and agency heads in the Administration's decision-making process.

General Features

The streamlined, consolidated system will help clarify responsibility and enhance accountability for formulating and implementing economic and domestic policy.

- The two new councils will replace the following:

  Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade
  Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs
  Cabinet Council on Food and Agriculture
  Cabinet Council on Human Resources
  Cabinet Council on Legal Policy
  Cabinet Council on Management and Administration
  Cabinet Council on Natural Resources and the Environment
  Senior Interagency Group on International Economic Policy

- The Economic Policy Council, the Domestic Policy Council and the National Security Council will serve as the primary channels for advising the President on policy.

- The Vice President and the Chief of Staff will serve as ex-officio members of both the Economic and Domestic Policy Councils.

- Executive department and agency heads who are not members of a council will be invited to attend the Council's meetings when issues involving their department or agency are under consideration.

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Chairmanship

The President will chair meetings of the Domestic Policy Council. In his absence, the Attorney General, who will serve as Chairman Pro Tempore, will preside at meetings of the Council.

Responsibilities

The Council will have responsibility for advising the President on all aspects of domestic policy issues, and for overseeing the coordination and implementation of the Administration's domestic policies.

Staff

The staff of the Council shall be headed by an Executive Secretary who will report to the Chief of Staff through the Cabinet Secretary.

Like the current cabinet councils, the Domestic Policy Council will rely heavily on interagency subcabinet level Working Groups. This will enable it to fully utilize the expertise and resources of the departments and agencies, and to provide a structure through which departmental initiatives can be considered fully.

Overall Coordination

The White House Chief of Staff will have responsibility for ensuring that the activities of the National Security Council, the Economic Policy Council, and the Domestic Policy Council are fully coordinated. He will also have the responsibility for assigning topics to a particular Council.

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